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CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for protecting a software application against software piracy comprising the steps of:

choosing a component; and

executing said component inside a secure environment.

- 2. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the step of choosing one or more local metrics.
- 3. The method claimed in claim 2 further comprising the step of verifying the metric or metrics and creating a result.
- 4. The method claimed in claim 3 further comprising the step of operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the result to a reportee, based on the verification result.
 - 5. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

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checking if a required software component is missing, damaged, or has otherwise been altered; and

operating not at all, operating in reduced functionallity mode, or reporting the state of said altered component.

6. The method claimed in claim 1 further comprising the steps of: checking for a prohibited software component; and operating not at all, operating in reduced functionality mode, or reporting the existence of said prohibited component.

7. A system for protecting software against piracy comprising:

a processing unit;

a system memory coupled to the processing unit though a system bus;

a computer-readable medium coupled to the processing unit through a

system bus;

an operating system excuted from the computer-readable medium;

a secure environment;

a software application; and

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a component which will execute in the secure environment.
8. The system claimed in claim 7 further comprising one or more metrics.
9. The system claimed in claim 8 further comprising means for verifying said metrics.
10. The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising communication means for reporting said metrics.
11. The system claimed in claim 9 further comprising means for operating not at all or operating in reduced functionality mode.
12. The system claimed in claim 10 further comprising means for operating not a all or operating in reduced functionality mode.

13. A method of compiling source code to prevent piracy of the resulting object

code comprising the steps of:

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choosing a component to be executed in a secure environment; and compiling said component to execute in said secure environment.